

Amendments to Claims

Claims 1-16 (canceled)

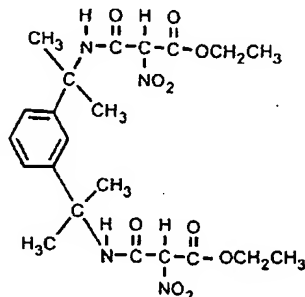
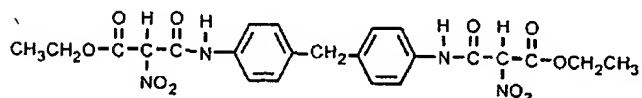
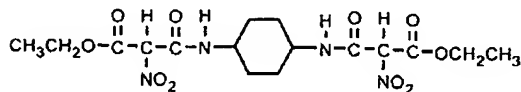
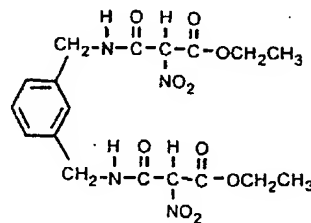
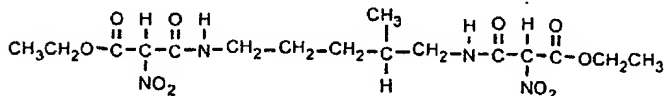
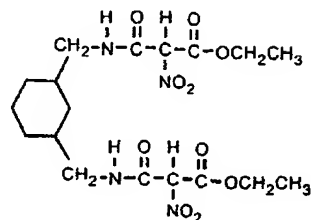
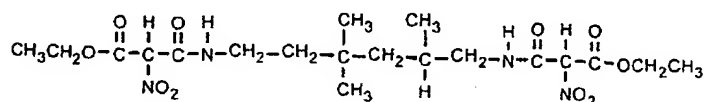
Claim 17 (previously amended): The compound of claim 32 where R is substituted with alkyl, sulfate, sulfonate, alkoxy, CN, NO₂ or an aromatic group.

Claim 18 (previously amended): The compound of claim 32 where R is a biphenyl group, fused rings or repeating aromatic groups.

Claims 19 and 20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (previously amended): The compound of claim 32 where R is C₃₋₁₇ alkyl.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A compound selected from the group consisting of:



Claim 23 (previously presented): A process for the generation of a nitrile oxide precursor compound comprising the steps of

- a) generating a potassium enolate of ethyl nitroacetate in situ;
- b) isolating said enolate; and
- c) adding to said isolated enolate an isocyanate, diisocyanate or polyisocyanate material in a polar aprotic solvent.

Claim 24 (canceled)

Claim 25 (currently amended): The process of claim 23 ~~Claim 24~~ wherein the polar aprotic solvent is selected from the group consisting of diglyme, monoglyme, glyme, tetrahydrofuran, dimethylformamide and dimethylsulfoxide.

Claim 26 (previously presented): A process for crosslinking a polymer composition comprising adding the compound of claim 32 to a solution of a polymer comprises one or more pendant or terminal functional groups selected from the group consisting of alkenes, alkynes, nitriles and isocyanates and heating the mixture to form a nitrile oxide in situ and a crosslinked polymer.

Claim 27 (canceled)

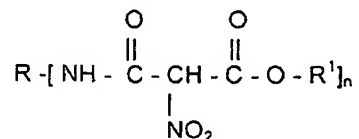
Claim 28 (previously amended): A urethane composition which is stable to temperatures below 120°C comprising the compound of claim 32.

Claim 29 (previously amended): A pressure sensitive adhesive, reactive hot melt adhesive, polyurethane dispersion, thermosetting adhesive, thermoplastic adhesive or coating comprising the compound of claim 32.

Claim 30 (canceled)

Claim 31 (previously amended): A polyurethane reactive hot melt adhesive comprising a compound of claim 32.

Claim 32 (previosuly amended): A compound having the formula



where

R is an unsubstituted or a substituted C₁₋₁₇ alkyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, or aromatic group, with the proviso that such group cannot be derived from p-phenylene diisocyanate;

n is 2 -10; and

R¹ is a branched or unbranched C₁₋₅ alkyl group.